

Message Text

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FOR DEPT ASST SEC DAY

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FROM BEIRUT DTD 06 NOV 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION NOVEMBER 6, 1976

REF: BEIRUT 8315 (DTG 051421Z NOV 76)

1. SUMMARY. ASF REINFORCEMENTS NOT YET HERE BUT
MOOD OF OPTIMISM PREVAILS AS BOTH NATIONAL MOVEMENT
AND RIGHTISTS MAKE CONCESSIONS TO ASF DEPLOYMENT.
RIGHTIST REACTIONS TO DEPLOYMENT OF ASF INCLUDE
ACCEPTANCE BY BECHIR GEMAYEL AND DISCLAIMER BY
CAMILLE CHAMOUN. U.S. CHARGE NOW IN EASTERN ZONE
FOR MEETINGS WITH SARKIS AND RIGHTIST LEADERS.
GROUND SITUATION QUIET, THOUGH ARTILLERY DUELS
INTENSIFIED IN BEIRUT LATE NOV 5, RESULTING IN HEAVY
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SHELLING OF SOME RESIDENTIAL AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. ARAB SECURITY FORCE. AS-SHUHUFUYA SAYS DELAY IN ARRIVAL ASF DUE SYRIAN MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS. AL ENVOY HASSAN SABRI AL-KHULI CONDEMNED RECENT FLARE-UPS IN FIGHTING AS OBVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE PEACE PLAN, AND CLAIMS TECHINCAL REASONS FOR DELAY IN ASF ARRIVAL. HOWEVER, LOCAL PRESS REMAINS OPTIMISTIC. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR HEADLINES "THE OBSTACLES FALL" AND CITES THREE REASONS FOR OPTIMISM: (1) DAMASCUS HAS PLACED ITS 22,000 MEN IN LEBANON AT SARKIS DISPOSAL AS OF NOV 5; (2) JUNBLATT AND THE NM SAID FOLLOWING NOV 5 MEETING THEY ACCEPT AL PEACE PLAN BUT DEMAND "SIMULTANEOUS AND RECIPROCAL" PLACEMENT OF ASF IN BOTH ZONES; AND (3) KFOUR FRONT APPEARS SOFTENING OBJECTIONS TO ASF FOLLOWING NOV 5 MEETING. ASF ARRIVAL NOW BEING PROJECTED FOR NOV 8 OR 9. RIGHTISTS CLAIM DEPLOYMENTS EXPECTED BEGIN NOV 7, INCLUDING ADVANCES FROM JAZZIN TO SIDON TO OPEN ROAD TO BEIRUT IN ADDITION TO ALEY-AIRPORT ROAD AND ALONG CITY CONFRONTATION LINE.

3. RIGHTIST REACTION TO ASF. RIGHTIST DECISION TO ACCEPT ASF IN RIGHTIST ZONES FOLLOWED NOV 5 MEETING WITH NEW ASF COMMANDER, GENERAL AHMED EL-HAJJ. RIGHTISTS SAID THEY ACCEPT ASF DEPLOYMENT IN THEIR SECTORS ON CONDITION ARAB TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY IN CASE OF "INCIDENTS." PIERRE GEMAYEL ASKS, "HOW CAN ANYONE SAY WE REFUSE THE ARAB STRIKE FORCE WHEN WE WERE THE FIRST TO ASK FOR IT?" FOLLOWING NOV 5 MEETING OF LEBANESE FRONT TO DISCUSS ASF DEPLOYMENT, CHAMOUN CALLED FOR PALESTINIAN RETREAT FROM MOUNTAINS, SHUF AND NORTH AND SOUTH LEBANON. ASKED IF ASF WOULD BE DEPLOYED IN RIGHTIST AREAS, CHAMOUN SAID, "THERE ARE NO INCIDENTS IN THESE AREAS. THE DISSUASION FORCE IS CHARGED WITH INTERVENING IN AGITATED AREAS. WE ARE IN ACCORD WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS ON THIS QUESTION." SARKIS MET NOV 5 WITH COMMAND COUNCIL OF LEBANESE FORCES, INCLUDING BECHIR GEMAYEL, SEJAAN KAZZI, DANY CHAMOUN, ABU ARZ, AND GEORGES ADOUANE. GEMAYEL TOLD PRESS THAT GROUP DID CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT OBJECT TO ENTRY OF ASF INTO EASTERN ZONE, BUT WARNED THAT ROOT PROBLEMS OF LEBANESE CRISIS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. DANY CHAMOUN SAID LEBANESE FORCES NEEDED THEIR WEAPONS TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND WOULD NOT GIVE THEM UP TO ASF. MARONITE LEAGUE MET NOV 5, LATER ISSUING COMMUNIQUE THAT "PLACEMENT OF ASF UNDER PRESIDENT SARKIS' PERSONAL COMMAND IS A CONDITION SINE QUA NON OF PRESENCE OF THESE FORCES

IN LEBANON." COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT PRESENCE OF
ASF IN LEBANON IS PROVISIONAL AND WITHDRAWAL DEPENDS
ON SARKIS.

4. U.S. CHARGE MEETS RIGHTIST LEADERS. EMBASSY
CHARGE LANE ON NOV 5 CROSSED CENTER CITY CONFRONTATION
LINE FOR FIRST U.S. DIPLOMATIC VISIT TO RIGHTIST ZONE
FROM EMBASSY IN WEST BEIRUT SINCE ASSASSINATION OF
AMB MELOY IN JUNE. CHARGE MET SARKIS, GEMAYEL AND
CHAMOUN NOV 5, AND EXPECTS SEE FRANGIE, SPEAKER OF
HOUSE KAMEL EL-ASSAD AND MARONITE PATRIARCH
KHURAYSH NOV 5 (SEPTELS).

5. ON THE GROUND. IN BEIRUT, INTERMITTENT ARTILLERY
DUELS INTENSIFIED LATE NOV 5 AND SEVERAL RESIDENTIAL
AREAS HEAVILY SHEELLED. DIDNAPPINGS, MOSTLY OF
CHRISTIANS, IN WEST BEIRUT HAVE INCREASED IN RECENT
DAYS, AND SEVERAL NEW ROADBLOCKS HAVE APPEARED.
CLASHES CONTINUED ALONG CENTER CITY LINE AND INTO
SUBURBS WHERE SHIYAH AYN AR-RAMMANAH AND GALLERY
SIMAAN AREA PARTICULARLY HOT. RIGHTIST RADIO STATIONS
NOV 6 ATTRIBUTE INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY TO
PALESTINAIN/LEFTIST EFFORTS, WITH IRAQI BACKING, TO
HINDER ASF DEPLOYMENTS. PRESS REPORTS SMALL CLASH
AT BDAHUN IN ALEY CAZA. IN THE NORTH, CLASHES
REPORTED AT RAS MASKA, DAYR-AYN AND MAR-YAKUB IN
TRIPOLI AREA. IN THE SOUTH, RADIO LEBANON (LAA) SAYS
ISRAELIS HAVE BOMBARDED BINT JBAYL AND TAYRI.
LANE UNQTE
KISSINGER

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